with the stipulated norm of 40 litre per capita per day supply of potable drinking water from a source within a distance of 1.6 km in plain area or 100 metre elevation in hilly areas. A State-wise breakup of the coverage status is as per the Statement (Refer to the Statement approved USQ No.2352).

Utilisation of funds under drinking water schemes

2354. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, covering 75,000 rural habitations for seven years, has a remarkably low fund utilisation record of 32 per cent of the total funds allocated as on 30th July, 2002;

(b) whether during 2002-03, under Swajaldhara Scheme, more than 12,000 proposals were received and only 2200 schemes were approved and funded; and

(c) whether the proposed consolidations of all drinking water schemes under one Omnibus of RGWM is likely to improve fund utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) During 2002-03, under Swajaldhara 20372 proposals were received and 4734 proposals were approved and funded. From 2003-04, powers have been delegated to District Water and Sanitation Committees to approve schemes under Swajaldhara as per the guidelines issued in June, 2003. So unapproved proposals have been returned to State Governments for taking necessary action in the light of revised guidelines.

(c) Drinking water supply is a State subject, Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) supplements the efforts of the State Governments by rendering technical and financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Utilisation of funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) by RGNDWM has been 100% during 2003-04.